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Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183167

FOLLOWING REPEAT ATHENS 5828 ACTION SECSTATE DATED 8/19/74.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 5828

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP CY GR

SUBJ: MICHAEL DOUNTAS APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO CYPRUS

1. ALL ATHENS NEWSPAPERS REPORT AUGUST 19 APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL DOUNTAS AS AMBASSADOR TO CYPRUS. DOUNTAS NOW SERVE AS LIAISON OFFICER BETWEEN GREEK FOREIGN MINISTRY AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TWICE BEFORE TO CYPRUS MOST RECENTLY FROM 1969-71 AS COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY. PRESS INDICATED AMBASSADOR LAGAKOS WILL RETURN TO MFA AS DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS VICE ROUSSOS WHO GOES TO LONDON.

2. DOUNTAS IS WELL-KNOWN TO EMBOFFS HERE WHO WERE ASSIGNED TO NICOSIA 1969-71 AS SMOOTH, CORDIAL DIPLOMAT WITH REPUTATION FOR BEING DEVIOUS, AT TIMES DELIBERATE TROUBLEMAKER, SPREADING RUMORS IRRESPONSIBLY WHEN CONVENIENT TO HIS PURPOSES. HE KNOWS CYPRUS WELL AND IS EXPERT ON GREEK/CYPRIOT RELATIONS. AMBASSADORS POPPER CONFIDENTIAL

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AND CRAWFORD MAY WANT TO ADD THEIR COMMENTS.

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